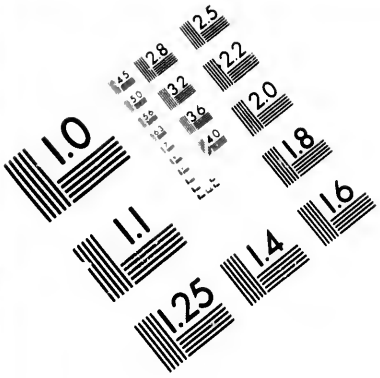

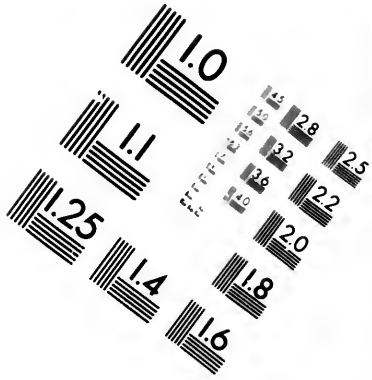

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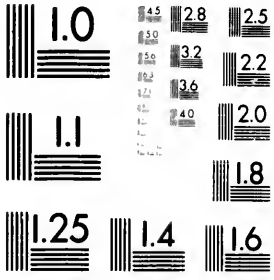

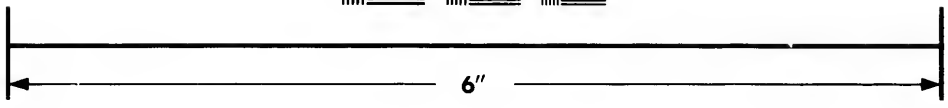

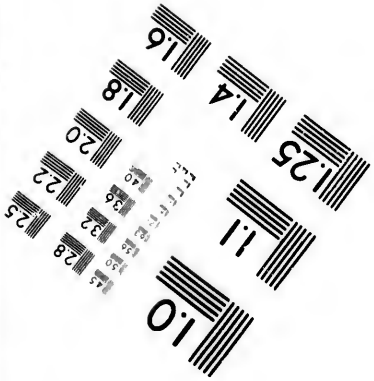

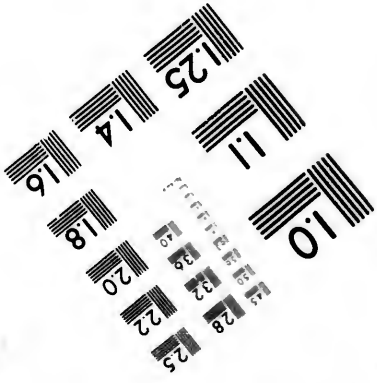

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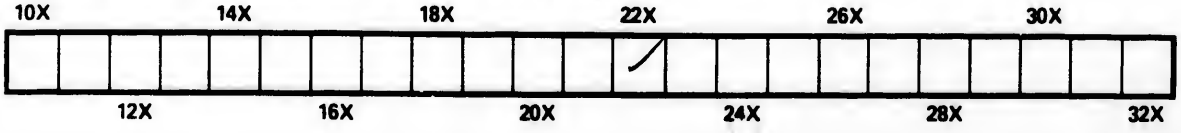

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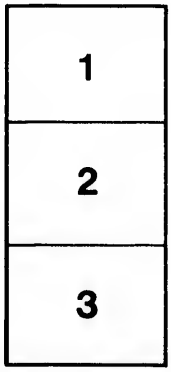

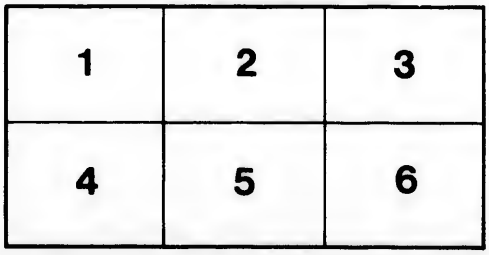

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LORD AND LADY ABERDEEN: A CHARACTER SKETCH.

BY W. T. STEAD

I. THE MIST OF CENTURIES AND OF SONG.

WHATEVER grudge the New World may bear the Old, for its heritage of ill, it cannot complain that it is stinted in the counterbalancing dower of reminiscences of its romantic past. In the midst of the metallic clink of the coin on the counter and the eager babel of operators in the markets, echoed and magnified by the journalistic sounding boards of the press until the atmosphere seems vocal with dollars and cents, can be heard now and then stray notes of melody from out, "the purple past, the dusk of centuries and of song." These wandering echoes of the clarions of the bygone time come and go like the breath of the zephyr on the Æolian harp. Sometimes it is a name, a place, a date or a person which unloosens the latent music of the world, but whenever it is heard it carries us back in imagination to the vanished centuries which poet, novelist and historian have irradiated with their genius, until they glow with the splendor with which the dawn illumines the Eastern sky.

The name of the present Governor-General of Canada is one of the keys which unloose these chords of the fairy music of old romance. When I was in Chicago the boardings blazed with the ornate posters announcing that a popular actor would shortly appear in one of the theatres of the city in his famous impersonation of Richard the Lion Heart. To-day there lives in the Government House at Ottawa, the direct lineal descendant of the warrior whose arrow slew King Richard before the castle of Charles in Perigord. A chasm of seven centuries yawns between the fatal shot of Bertrand de Gourdon and our own day, but it is bridged by the history of a single family; and the soughing of the Canadian wind amid the pines seems to bring with it far-away echoes of Blondel's song and the fierce clash of Christian sword on Moslem helm in the Crusaders' war. The legendary origin of the Gordons of Haddo, of whom Lord Aberdeen is the living representative, does not lose its value from our present point of view because its authenticity is a subject of antiquarian dispute, or because there are authorities who trace the Gordon genealogy much further back than the days of the lion-hearted Plantagenet. Antiquaries question everything, and if the Gordons were in Aberdeen before the Norman William conquered England, that in no way detracts from the romantic interest that associates their name with the tragic fate of one of the few English monarchs whose story has become an heirloom of the world of old romance.

If the family history of Lord Aberdeen recalls the ancient glories of the Plantagenets, that of Lady Aberdeen revives memories not less glorious, in the opinion at least of one great branch of the English-speaking world. The Governor-General is a Gordon of Scotland, but his wife claims descent not only from the ancient kings of Scotland but also from those of Ireland through the O'Neills of Tyrone. To the Anglo-Saxon, Irish history is very much of a sealed book. To an Irish patriot it is like those illu-

LORD ABERDEEN.

minated manuscripts which still attest, in European museums, the glory of Celtic art and the ancient splendor of the Irish race. And among the heroes whose exploits furnish the illuminations to the gilded page, the O'Neills occupy a leading place. They were, it must be admitted, no friends of the English. Nor, indeed, was it possible for them to regard the invader as other than the common enemy of their family and of their race. Had there been a few more O'Neills in Ireland, the course of the history of that distressful isle might have been very different. F the axe and sword and musket thinned their ranks, and although the story of the O'Neills is as fuel for the brooding imagination of the patriot, it resembles all other Irish histories in its record of unavailing valor and of the pathos of despair. In these later days, however, the cause of Irish liberty and Irish nationality has found a repre-

sentative in Lady Aberdeen, who from her position in the inner arcanum of British rule may be able to do more for her country in the council chamber than any of her stalwart ancestors were able to achieve for Erin in the tented field.

Apart from the associations of legend and of romance that cluster round the family history of the Governor-General and his wife in the dim twilight of the remote past, it is interesting to note that the associations between the Gordons and the American continent date back for two centuries, to a period antecedent to the great schism by which George the Third rent the English-speaking world in twain. John Gordon, of Haddo, was created a baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles Stuart, King of England, and the baronetcy is one among the many titles borne by the Earl of Aberdeen.

Sir John Gordon was a Cavalier of the school of Montrose. When the Scottish people were signing the Solemn League and Covenant with their heart's blood Sir John was fortifying his castle and sharpening his sword, and mustering his fighting men to help the King to govern by right divine. The fates and the Scottish people were, however, too much for Sir John and for his royal master. When the Marquis of Argyle besieged him in his castle of Kellie his Scottish artillerymen, having no stomach for the cause, deserted to the army of the Covenant and Sir John was compelled ingloriously to surrender. There was short shrift in those days for the vanquished. Sir John Gordon was carried as a prisoner to Edinbro, and in the same month of July that Oliver Cromwell on the moor of Long Marston gave the royal army the foretaste of the quality of his Ironsides Sir John Gordon was judicially condemned to death and publicly executed. The lesson was a severe one, but the effect seems to have been most salutary. From that time to this, although his descendants may have described themselves as Royalists, Jacobites or Tories, they have always been true to the cause of liberty, of justice and of progress.

Of this a more conspicuous example was afforded in the person of the first Earl of Aberdeen. Five years after the first Nova Scotian baronet went to the headsman's block the axe of the executioner was employed on the neck of Charles Stuart, but after a time the whirligig of time brought about its revenge, and the son of the beheaded king, having come to the throne, made the son of the beheaded baronet first Earl of Aberdeen and Lord High Chancellor of Scotland. Argyle went to the scaffold, and the Cavaliers, once more in the saddle, pursued their old enemies without ruth. They found, however, that their Lord High Chancellor brought too much conscience to his work to serve as the tool of mere proscription. The Privy Council, finding some difficulty in striking at the heads of some of the Whigs, issued orders that husbands and fathers should be held responsible by fine and imprisonment for the opinions of their wives and daughters. Lord Aberdeen, to his credit be it spoken, declared from the judgment seat that the orders of the Privy Council could not be carried out under any existing law. Then speaking as Minister he declined to propose any alteration in the law to enable this monstrous iniquity to be legalized. The Stuarts were a stubborn race, and instead of recognizing the justice and integrity of Lord Aberdeen, the King drily observed that he would be served in his own manner and according to his own measures. Lord Aberdeen at once resigned. He was too loyal to the dynasty to consent to serve King William when James was sent packing across the seas, and he spent

LADY ABERDEEN.

the rest of his life in retirement. He was, however, sufficiently free from Jacobitism to take the oath of allegiance when Queen Anne came to the throne. He was said to have been the solidest statesman in Scotland, the first of a line of which the present Governor-General is no unworthy representative.

It would be a mistake, however, to imagine that the Aberdeens descend solely from the conservatives or aristocrats of the world. Lady Aberdeen owes her family name of Marjoribanks to the grant of certain lands made by King Robert the Bruce to his daughter, Marjorie, who married the High Steward Johnstone, whose family in time substituted the name Majoribanks for their own more prosaic one. But not only is Lady Aberdeen associated by her ancestors with the patriot hero of Scottish history, there is in her family story one of the most romantic incidents which occur seldom far from that mystic borderland of old romance which divided England from Scotland. Among her ancestors she counts the famous Grizel Cochrane, whose reckless daring saved her father's life. It was in the last years of King James' reign and Grizel's father, Sir John Cochrane, of Ochiltree, was lying in Edinbro under sentence of death. All efforts to secure his pardon failed. The death warrant, signed in London, was forwarded by mail to Edinbro; on its arrival Sir John was to die. Despair gives courage to the most timid, and Grizel Cochrane, seeing that there was only one chance left, seized it with intrepidity. Disguising herself as a highwayman she waylaid the Royal mail, and clapping a pistol to the driver's head compelled him to give up the death warrant. As soon as she possessed herself of the fatal document she rode off and soon had the pleasure of thrusting it into the fire. Whether out of consideration for the heroism of the exploit or because of the Revolution is not stated, but Sir John was ultimately pardoned.

Lord Aberdeen also boasts a Grisell among his ancestors, who, by the way, makes him a direct descendant of John Knox. Among all men born on Scottish soil there is none greater or more universally esteemed than the great Reformer. Lady Grisell Baillie married the son of Robert Baillie, the martyr, who was John Knox's great grandson. Lord Aberdeen's grandmother was Lady Grisell's great granddaughter. Robert Baillie was one of the martyrs for Christ's Crown and Covenant, whose sufferings have done so much to glorify the history of Scotland and to dignify the Scotch character. It is a very pretty story, that of Lady Grisell and of her visits to the martyr as he lay in the Tolbooth waiting for death. It has features which suggest that Grisell was the original of Robert Louis Stevenson's latest heroine. Grisell played her part faithfully and nobly. She could not save Robert Baillie, but her heroism and beauty won the heart of his son George, whom she married after the Revolution of 1688 had made it safe for honest folks to marry and be given in marriage. Lady Grisell was a poet as well as a heroine, and fragments of her minstrelsy to this day enliven the hours of the Scottish peasants.

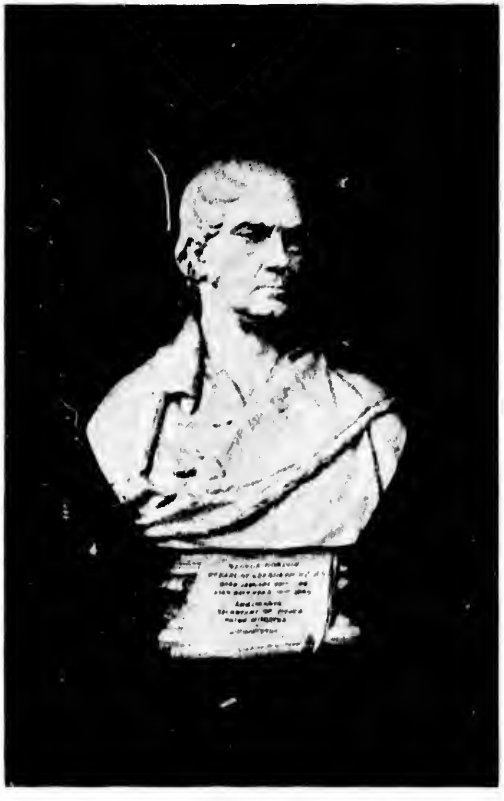
II. THE PRIME MINISTER.

The most notable name among all the ancestors of the Governor-General is that of his grandfather, Earl of Aberdeen, Prime Minister of the Queen in the middle of the present century. How great and good, how ideally perfect a character he was has but recently been revealed to the world. In the useful and interesting series of the Queen's Prime Ministers which Mr. Stuart Reid is editing the most interesting volume is that which Sir Arthur Gordon has devoted to the story of the Earl of Aberdeen. It is a narrative which tends to deepen and reassure our faith in human nature, and especially in the native virtues of the English-speaking race. The discovery of a great personality is to the historian what the finding of a nugget is to the miner who is prospecting for gold. To come upon a pure lump of metal lying in an out of a way place is of much more importance than the intrinsic value of the particular nugget. Its importance arises from the fact that it suggests the presence of other nuggets of equal value which have not yet been discovered, but may be revealed in that gold bearing stratum. You rise from the perusal of Sir Arthur Gordon's monograph feeling that the world, and especially the British public, is richer in human worth and almost ideal goodness than you suspected before you turned over its pages.

Lord Aberdeen as Prime Minster closed his official career amid the dark clouds and soulbre discouragement of the Crimean War. Owing to that unfortunate circumstance by which he was overwhelmed in a catastrophe that he had in vain endeavored to avert, his real merits as a statesman were overshadowed, and it was not until his son's biography appeared that men began to appreciate the greatness of Lord Aberdeen as an imperial statesman. The memory of such a man and the story of the services which he was able to render the Empire is a perpetual incentive to his grandson, whose shoulders are not unequal even to the burden of the heritage of so great a name. Lord Aberdeen before he was 30, had to play a part in the history of Europe which is without a parallel. He was sent as special emissary from England to the camp of the allies when coalesced Europe was rising to throw off the tyranny of Napoleon. During the whole of the campaign which culminated in the Battle of Leipsic and the triumphal entrance of the allies into Paris Lord Aberdeen was the intimate adviser and trusted confidant of the Emperor of Austria and of most of the crowned heads of Europe. Seldom had a young man so great a *rôle* to play, and seldom has any one fulfilled so difficult a part with so brilliant a success. Nature and education had alike fitted him for the position. A rare scholar, familiar with modern languages, at home equally in court and camp, of a transparent sincerity and simplicity, which enabled him to command the confidence of the sovereigns and statesmen with whom he was thrown into constant contact, Lord Aberdeen contributed as much as any man to the success of the great European revolt against Napoleon. In his son's pages we catch glimpses from time to time of this high spirited, chiv-

alrous Englishman living in the midst of alarms of war and in the very vortex of the intrigues of half a dozen rival courts without ever betraying the confidence of a friend or sacrificing for a moment the interests of his country. Had he done nothing else Lord Aberdeen would have conferred an inestimable service upon the cause of liberty and national independence by the part which he played in that campaign.

The Gordons have often distinguished themselves in early life. One of the same family fell on the field



GEORGE GORDON, FOURTH EARL OF ABERDEEN.
Memorial Bust in Westminster Abbey.

of Waterloo a Lieutenant-Colonel and a K. C. B., when he was only 23 years old. Lord Aberdeen had been taught statesmanship as a boy at the table of Pitt and Melville, in whose homes he had spent his youth, and who had besides inherited a great tradition of public service broken only by a single link. He had, moreover, been steadied by the responsibilities of the management of his estate at a time when other young men have barely left the university. This, however, is not the place for telling the story of Lord Aberdeen, the Prime Minister, excepting so far as it bears upon the prospects of Lord Aberdeen, the Governor-General. As Foreign Minister, as Colonial Secretary and as Prime Minister, Lord Aberdeen had as much opportunity as any living man in shaping the policy of England, both in Colonial affairs and on the continent of Europe. It is interesting to note, in view of the position which his grandson holds to-day, that the most conspicuous feature of his administration of colonial affairs during the short time he was at the Colonial Office was to draw up instructions to Lord Amherst, whom he proposed to send as High Commissioner to Canada with powers not only to investigate but to settle in the most liberal manner the grievances of the colony. Although Lord Aberdeen was a Conservative and Foreign Minister of the Duke of Wellington, he always set his face as a flint against the doctrine favored by Lord Palmerston of interfering in every possible way short of military force in the affairs of other nations. In like manner, although he was a peer and a member of the permanent majority in the House of Lords he opposed without hesitation what he considered the Duke of Wellington's dangerous policy of throwing out the measures of the Reform Administration. Notwithstanding this, the leadership and management of the Conservative party in Scotland was forced upon him by the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel, who assured him that he had become "the standard of our colonial policy as you were before of our foreign policy." Despite his preoccupation with foreign affairs, he was statesman enough to see that the destruction of the Scotch Church was inevitable unless action was taken to promptly meet the demands of those who subsequently constituted the Free Church of Scotland. His advise was disregarded until it was too late.

During his second term of office as Foreign Secretary it fell to his lot to arrive at two important decisions of vital importance to the Dominion over which his grandson is now presiding as representative of the Queen. When he entered office the relations with the United States were somewhat dangerously strained owing to frontier difficulties and Canadian troubles. He sent Lord Ashburton to Washington on a special mission to adjust the difficulties between the Empire and the Republic. The frontier line which secured British Columbia for Britain was Lord Aberdeen's handiwork. Lord Aberdeen had proposed in the first case to refer the disputed question to arbitration. But President Polk took a high line on the subject and declared that the rights of the United States to the territory in dispute were so clear and unquestionable that he was determined to take active measures to vindicate American rights. Lord Aberdeen was the last man in the world to deal in bluster, but he was not to be bluffed by the President, and in the House of Lords he stated that Britain also had rights in the disputed territory which were clear and indisputable, and these rights, with the blessing of God and their support, he was fully prepared to maintain. After this preliminary defiance on each side, a compromise was drawn up by Lord Aberdeen, and ultimately approved of by the American Senate. By this means British Columbia was secured to the British Empire. But although Lord Aberdeen was very

vigilant in maintaining the rights of Britain he had no aspiration to extend British territory even where he was invited to do so. It is not generally known that it is owing to Lord Aberdeen's recognition of the fact that the Pacific Slope of California was part of the natural heritage of the United States of America that the British flag is not flying at this moment over the Golden Gate. When the annexation of Texas brought the United States to the verge of war, the Mexican government offered to cede California to Great Britain. Lord Elenborough, then First Lord of the Admiralty, strongly urged upon his colleagues the importance of accepting the offer. "Let us obtain possession," he cried, "while we can, of the key of the northwest coast of America." His arguments produced some effect upon Sir Robert Peel, then Prime Minister, but Lord Aberdeen set his face as a flint against the scheme. However tempting a bait San Francisco might be to a power which had the onerous naval responsibilities of Great Britain, he peremptorily refused to permit the acceptance of an offer which would have been considered as an unfriendly act to the United States, and which might not improbably have landed the Republic and the Empire in hostilities. Such a possibility might be faced in maintaining existing rights, but nothing could justify risking such a disaster in order to establish British authority where it had not previously existed. Sufficient has been said to show that Lord Aberdeen, the Prime Minister, recognized the necessity of maintaining a good understanding between the United States and the British Empire to induce him to swerve a hair's breadth from the policy which he recognized as both just and expedient.

After the repeal of the Corn Laws, which Lord Aberdeen strongly supported, the Peel administration fell, and on the fall of Lord Derby's Government Lord Aberdeen became Prime Minister of the Queen, a post which he afterwards resigned under circumstances as honorable to him as it was discreditable to some of his colleagues. Her Majesty accepted his resignation with unfeigned regret. She immediately gave him the vacant Garter, and wrote him a letter which is worth while introducing as indicating the kind of relations which existed between the Sovereign and her Prime Minister.

WINDSOR CASTLE, February 7, 1855.

Though the Queen hopes to see Lord Aberdeen in a short while, she seizes the opportunity of approving the appointment of the Hon. and Rev. Arthur Douglas to the living of St. Olive's, Southwark, to say what she hardly trusts to do verbally, without giving way to her feelings. She wishes to say what a *pang* it is for her to separate from *so* kind and dear and valued a friend as Lord Aberdeen has ever been to her since she has known him. The day he became her Prime Minister was a *very happy* one for her; and throughout his ministry he has ever been the kindest and wisest adviser, one to whom she could apply for advice on all and trifling occasions even. Thus she is sure he will ever be—but the losing him as her first adviser in her Government is *very painful*. The pain has been to a certain extent lessened by the knowledge of *all* he has done to further the formation of this Government in so loyal, noble and disinterested a manner, and by *his* friends retaining their posts, which is a *great* security against possible dangers.

The Queen is sure that the Prince and herself may ever rely upon his valuable support and advice in all times of difficulty, and she now concludes with the expression of her warmest thanks for all his kindness and devotion, as well as of her unalterable friendship and esteem for him, and with every wish for his health and happiness.

Mr. Gladstone at the same time wrote a letter of sympathy, saying that he never regretted having urged him to accept "the seat of power, to which he had a paramount claim, conferred by superior wisdom and virtue." On his resignation Lord Aberdeen remained in retirement. He kept up the relations which existed between him and his monarch and continued to bring to bear upon all questions his keen, impartial judgment, which made his counsel so valuable to statesmen of both parties. Lord Aberdeen never quite forgave himself for his share of the bringing about of the Russo-Turkish war. His one cause of regret, he wrote in 1857, was that he did not at once refire, instead of allowing himself to be dragged into a war which, though strictly justifiable in itself, was most unwise and unnecessary. So deeply did he take it to heart that he refused to rebuild the parish church of Methlick. He said he would leave the work for his son. No one knew why he refused until after his death, when it was found that he shrank from building a church owing to the share which he had in the Crimean War. The suggestion came to him from the text in the Book of Chronicles: "And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God; but the Word of the Lord came to me saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars; thou shalt not build a house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight."

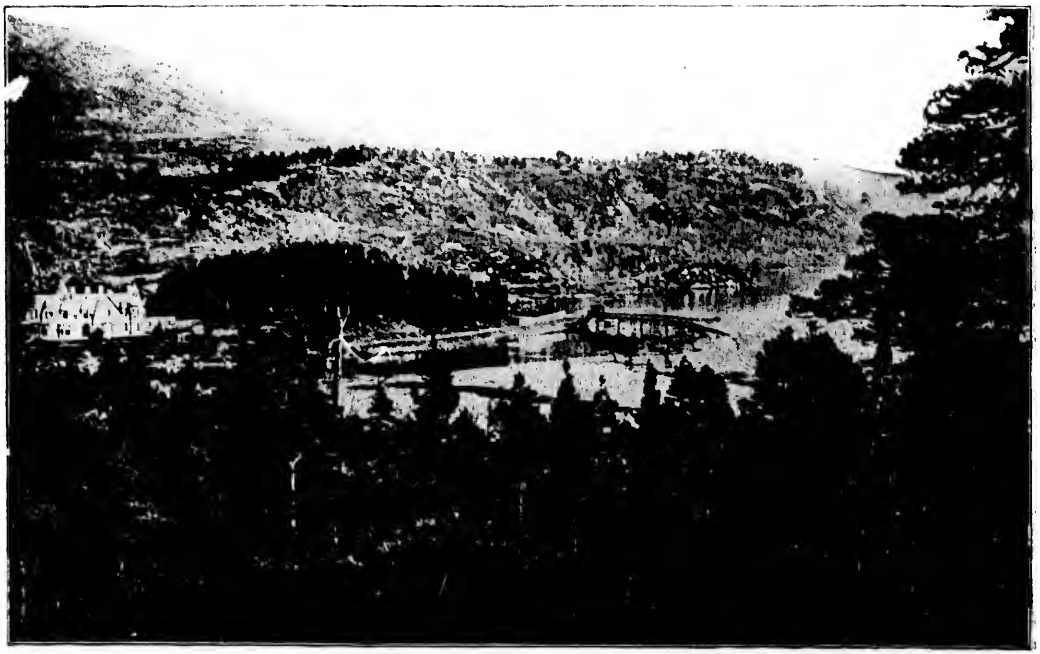
Her Majesty visited him in 1857 at Haddo House. Three years afterwards he expired in London, leaving a memory of a singularly stainless career marred by no selfish or unworthy trait. No man was less of a self-advertising politician. A ripe scholar, a sagacious statesman, and a profound and prescient thinker, he constantly displayed an unshaken courage in maintaining the principles to which he was attached and defending what he believed to be true against all odds. Few British statesmen have had a greater position and a larger share in the shaping and molding of their country, and none have ever emerged from the ordeal with a higher reputation for a love of justice and an unshaken devotion to the cause of peace.

In many respects the Governor-General of Canada reminds one of his grandfather. In one respect he differs from him. The Prime Minister was so reserved that his real character was only known to his intimates. His grandson is affability itself; his urbanity, his courtesy, and his general amiability enable him to be sympathetic with all sorts and conditions of men; indeed, he has almost carried matters to the other extreme. The grandfather hid his natural kindliness behind a mask of almost forbid-

ding reserve. So far from wearing his heart upon his sleeve, he hid it behind a somewhat cold and stern exterior. The world thought him proud and unsympathetic and therein did him an injustice. With the grandson the misunderstanding lies on the other side, his ready sympathy, his absolute forgetfulness of self, his natural bonhomie, are apt to lead those who do not know him to forget that beneath all this extreme geniality of demeanor there is concealed a strong character all the more resolute to carry out its end because it is extremely indifferent as to the mere formalities of ceremony and etiquette.

The fifth Earl of Aberdeen, the son of the Prime Minister, better known as Lord Haddo, whose memoirs, written by the Rev. E. B. Elliot, of Brighton, has long been a favorite biography among Evangelicals. The work passed into a sixth edition twenty years ago. Lord Haddo was an invalid, whose last years were spent in the constant presence of death. He took but slight interest in politics, although he was a member of the House of Commons. He threw his whole soul into the work of evangelization. He preached, he taught, he distributed tracts and Bibles, built churches and generally laid himself out to promote as much as in him lay the coming of the Kingdom. He was singularly free from the besetting sin which characterizes most persons of a pronounced evangelical piety. He was not intolerant, and his influence was ever exerted to break down the barriers of sect and the differences which separated good men.

On his death, at the early age of 47, he was succeeded by the sixth Earl of Aberdeen, the elder brother of the present Governor General. His singular career was one among the many links which unite the Aberdeens with America. Two years after he had succeeded to the earldom, thinking that the resources of the family had been somewhat drained by the generosity of his father and by the necessity of providing allowances to its younger members, he suddenly arrived at a strange decision, to which he was, doubtless, also prompted by an innate love of adventure and passion for a seafaring life. Abandoning his princely domain at Haddo, he crossed the Atlantic, and after a short tour in the United States, abandoned his name and rank at Boston and shipped himself as a sailor on board a merchant ship which was bound for the Canary Islands. No one on board knew him as an earl; they only knew him as George H. Osborn. He was over 6 feet high, handsome, full of the natural courtesy of a great nobleman, but he served in the forecastle as if he had been an ordinary seaman. He was enthusiastic about navigation, and passed in the Nautical College at Boston as first-class navigator and second class for seamanship. He had not been long enough at sea to secure a captain's certificate until the next year. He sailed as mate in an American coasting vessel, but shortly afterwards we find him again as an ordinary seaman making a voyage to Mexico. For the next three or four years he continued to earn his living before the mast. On one occasion a ship in which he was sailing visited the colony where his uncle, afterwards Lord Stanmore, was governor, but he never made himself known, although it is said that one day he wrote his name on a pane of



AFFARIC LODGE, LOCH AFFARIC, BEAULY.

glass in the governor's residence. Between his voyages he lived for the most part in Maine. He seems to have been very happy. He was a rigid teetotaler, and took an active part in religious exercises, both on ship and at home. During the whole of his sojourn in America the fifth Earl only drew £200 from the revenues of his estates, nor did his mode of living differ from that of an ordinary seagoing man. In 1870 he started to make a voyage to Australia, hoping from there to complete the circle round the globe. Six days, however, after he left Boston he was caught by the bight of the down haul as he and his companion were lowering the mainsail. Lord Aberdeen was caught by the rope and thrown into the sea. His companion heard his cry for help as he dropped into the water, but he was never seen or heard of since. His death when serving as first mate on board that American ship brought about the accession of the present earl, John Campbell Gordon, who was the youngest son of Lord Haddo, and to whom this sketch is more particularly devoted.

It was necessary to dwell at much greater length than usual upon the character of Lord Aberdeen's ancestors. The Governor-General is the resultant of the very varied and strangely marked features which make up the sum of the Gordon character. There are in him many of the salient traits of the more notable of his forbears. He has the administrative genius and statesmanlike ability of the Prime Minister, the earnest piety and catholic evangelism of Lord Haddo, while he is by no means devoid of the love of action and adventure which were so strongly developed in his brother George. Although he resembles many of his ancestors he has a distinct character of his own, which will be better appreciated both in Canada and the United States four years hence than it is now.

III. THE EARL OF ABERDEEN.

John Campbell Gordon, sixth Earl of Aberdeen, was born in 1847, just before the great revolutionary outburst which shook the thrones of Europe. He is, therefore, 46 years of age, but does not look more than 36. He has a singularly youthful appearance, and in this he resembles Lord Rosebery whose juvenility of aspect has frequently occasioned remark, and which for some time stood in the way of the recognition of his qualities even by so familiar a friend as Mr. Gladstone. Lord Aberdeen was only a younger son till 1870, when the death of his brother George gave him a seat in the House of Lords and brought him in sight of the career which up to the present moment has been one long progress of increasing service to the State. The Gordons are physically a fine race, and the present Earl, although not so tall as his brothers, is much stronger in muscular development than might be imagined from those who note his comparatively slight build. Like most men of his family, he is extremely fond of sport—physical exercise. Both of his brothers were splendid shots with the rifle, having carried all before them at Wimbledon on more than one occasion. It was this extreme devotion to the rifle which led to the lamentable accident which caused the death of his second brother.

Lord Aberdeen, however, unites with the love of sport which is common to most landed aristocracy a passion which among peers is almost unique—from boyhood he has had a delight in locomotive engines; he is probably the only peer who could drive an engine from London to Edinburgh. Through the indulgence of a relative, when he was still a schoolboy he had permission to ride on the engine of a local railway and he never, if he could help it, rode anywhere else. He had no greater delight than to stand in front of the fire-box acting as fireman or starter and occasionally being permitted to drive the engine. He still remembers as one of the proudest days of his life how, when he had finished oiling the engine when at full speed, the old engine driver said to him: "John, I think I must apply for a day's holiday and let you take charge." From that time forward Lord Aberdeen has never lost touch with the locomotive engineers; no one is more popular with the railway servants in the old country and nothing but the lack of acquaintance with the road and the signals stands in the way of his being able to take a Canadian Pacific express right across the whole continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He is certainly the first Governor-General who was also an engine driver. Engine driving, in fact, may be considered as one of his favorite hobbies, and one of the things which he looked forward to in the new world was that of making a study of the engines of America, as complete as that which he has made of the locomotives of England and Scotland. It was this boyish passion which first introduced him to public life. Lord De la Warr had moved for a select committee into railway accidents and in support of his motion Lord Aberdeen, who a very young man, made his maiden speech in the House of Lords. There is no more difficult audience to address than the Peers, but his knowledge of the subject and the enthusiasm with which he explained the technicalities of railway management and the mysteries of fly-shunting to the Peers won him high praise, and when at a later period a Royal Commission was constituted in order to inquire into railway accidents he was immediately nominated as a commissioner. Of this commission the Duke of Buckingham was the first chairman, but on his appointment to the Indian presidency, Lord Aberdeen, although one of the youngest members of the commission, succeeded him as chairman. It was a remarkable elevation for so young a man and one of which he made the most to the interest of the railway servants. The Commission reported in favor of the block system, continuous brakes, continuous foot boards, and of many other improvements which the railways have for the most part introduced of their own accord. As the commission was not unanimous Lord Beaconsfield shirked the duty of legislation. Few questions are of more importance in the New World than that of reducing the unnecessary slaughter of railway employees, which in the United States attains dimensions far in excess of that of any other civilized country.

There is probably no man west of the Atlantic with whom those who are working in this matter could more properly take counsel than the Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, whose sympathies with the workmen are by no means circumscribed by parallels of latitude or mountain range or sea.

Lord Aberdeen's second appointment was somewhat similar, inasmuch as it concerned the prevention of the loss of life on the part of the working population. The agitation initiated by Mr. Plimsoll concerning the wholesale destruction of sailors' lives by the sending of coffin ships to sea, in order to realize a profit for the owners, led to a prolonged and angry controversy, in which Mr. Chamberlain, who was then President of the Board of Trade, took a very strong line against the ship owners. After considerable recrimination, during which feeling on both sides became extremely heated, it was at last decided to appoint a Royal Commission on which both parties could be represented to take evidence and report. The Commission was a strong one. Mr. Chamberlain was one of its members, and the leading representatives of the ship owners were also there in force. It was no easy task presiding over a tribunal in which the chief disputants sat as judges, and it was a singular tribute to the rapidly rising reputation of the young Earl that he was selected as chairman, a position which somewhat resembled that of Æolus in the cave of the winds. However, by the judicious dining of the Commissioners before they commenced the inquiry, and the excellent practice of lunching together during the course of the inquiry, Lord Aberdeen was able to establish sufficiently genial relations with the Commissioners to get through with a singular absence of friction. His position as chairman was largely official and appeal was constantly made to him by the advocates of the respective sides to rule out of order this, that or the other question. He was almost the youngest man on the Commission, and his courtesy and amiability might have led some of the ruder Commissioners to try to get their own way with a rough hand. Whatever attempts were made in this direction miscarried signally, and the Commission had not been many days in session before its members recognized that although its president had a glove of velvet there was within it a hand of steel. When he had to vacate the chair in order to undertake the responsibilities of the Irish Viceroyalty, the Commissioners, on the motion of Mr. Chamberlain, passed a unanimous vote expressing their high sense of the signal impartiality and *savoir faire* with which he had discharged the arduous duties of his office.

Up to this time the Earl of Aberdeen, although acting in hearty accord with Mr. Gladstone, who had always been a close personal friend of all the Aberdeens, and especially of the present Earl and Countess, had not held any purely political post under the Liberal Party. Lord Aberdeen, the Prime Minister, began life as a Conservative. He was first employed by Lord Castlereagh, and was subsequently Foreign Minister of the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel. When the Corn Laws went by the board he became a Peelite, and the Aberdeen Ministry was a combination of Peelites and Liberals, hence when the present Earl took his seat in the House of Lords he sat neither with the Conservatives nor with the Liberals, but occupied a place in the cross benches, which is supposed to belong to peers of an independent mind who do not wish to identify themselves conspicuously with either of the two parties. He was regarded, however, as belonging to the Conservative Party by heredity, and hence in 1876 he was selected to move the address to the Queen in reply to the royal speech. Even then he gave an indication of how loosely he regarded the party tie by taking occasion to express his objection to the Royal Titles bill, a measure which was strongly supported in August circles.

It was soon evident, however, that the popular sympathies of the young Earl and the immense personal influence of Mr. Gladstone, who had always been as a father to the Earl and the countess, were sweeping him directly into the Liberal ranks. In addition to this, two influences, of different degrees of importance, were telling in the same direction. One was the influence of his wife, who was strongly Liberal, and the other the natural reaction against the follies and courses of the Jingo period which marked the close of Lord Beaconsfield's administration. His first overt act of rebellion against his party was when he telegraphed from Brindisi his adhesion to the popular protest which was being signed against the Afghan War. That this was no mere caprice he made abundantly evident when he spoke in the debate against the Afghan policy of the Ministry, thereby maintaining the traditions of his ancestor in his devotion to peace and conciliation. In 1879 he indicated his transference of political allegiance by supporting Mr. Gladstone's first Midlothian campaign, having accepted Lord Rosebery's invitation to form one of the house party at Dalmeny on that memorable occasion. The following year, on the very day on which Lord Beaconsfield dissolved Parliament, Lord Aberdeen took his seat for the first time on the Liberal side of the House. He had burned his boats and definitely cast in his lot with Mr. Gladstone on the eve of an election which, in the opinion of society, was certain to result in the return of Lord Beaconsfield to power. Society, as usual, was wrong, the elections went with a rush against the Jingoes, and Lord Aberdeen found himself embarked on the winning side.

The only appointment which he received from the Government of that day was the chairmanship of the Commission on Shipping, to which I have already referred. It should be mentioned, however, that Lord Aberdeen was, during these years, entrusted with the duty of acting as Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland. The Lord High Commissioner is the representative of Her Majesty and he must be present at the opening of what may be called the Par-

DALMENY, MIDLOTHIAN CAMPAIGN, 1879.

Marquis of Tweeddale. Hon. Alfred Lyttleton Countess of Rosebery. Mr. Edgar Boehm
Earl of Aberdeen. Miss Mary Gladstone. Mr. Lacaita.
Lord Reay. Marchioness of Tweeddale. Mr. Gladstone. Countess of Aberdeen. Mr. Adam, (Chief Opposition Whip).
Mrs. Gladstone. Lord Douglas Gordon. Lady Reay.
Earl of Rosebery.

liament of the Scotch Church of Edinburgh. In this capacity Lord and Lady Aberdeen held almost royal court at Holyrood Palace. This was a kind of preliminary apprenticeship qualifying them for their subsequent viceroyalty in Dublin and their Governor-Generalship in Canada. Lord Aberdeen in this and other positions which he filled in the cause of philanthropy and religion had proved that he not only possessed capacity, but also that his capacity was recognized and appreciated in the most influential quarters. Hence no one was astonished, unless it was the Earl himself, when, on the formation of the Gladstone ministry of 1886 he was sent for by the Prime Minister and offered the Viceroyship of Ireland. Lady Aberdeen was at Mentmore with Lady Rosebery at the time, when she received a telegram from her husband saying he wished to see her at the railway station that night on her return. To her immense astonishment she learned that her husband was going to Dublin Castle.

In the course of the morning a message had arrived summoning Lord Aberdeen to Mr. Gladstone's house. As soon as he arrived Mr. Gladstone told him that he must go to Ireland. At that time nothing in the world was further from Lord Aberdeen's mind. He was a Scotchman who had never paid any particular attention to Irish affairs. Mr. Gladstone was forming his ministry with Home Rule as his principal; in fact, its only article of its programme. The position of Irish Viceroy was, therefore, one of the most important in the whole administration. Lord Aberdeen hesitated to accept so responsible a position without time for consideration. But it seemed that political exigencies rendered it indispensable that the Viceroy must be appointed there and then, otherwise it would have been impossible for Mr. Morley to have taken office as Chief Secretary, and every hour of delay was of importance. And the old gentleman, when, in addition to being Prime Minister of the Queen, he feels himself to stand in *loco parentis* to a young politician, has about him a kind of parental imperativeness which it is difficult to resist. Therefore, Lord Aberdeen, being crowded into it, as it were, by Mr. Gladstone, found himself suddenly Lord of Dublin Castle,

as Viceroy of her Majesty under the first Home Rule administration which had existed in Great Britain.

The situation in Dublin when Lord and Lady Aberdeen began their viceroyalty was almost one of unexampled difficulty. Lord and Lady Carnarvon, who had been their predecessors in the Castle, had shown their appreciation of the Irish character and disposition by dispensing with the menacing machinery of military escorts and had thrown themselves heart and soul into the work of promoting the material interests of Ireland. Unfortunately, Lord Carnarvon's statesmanlike projects for the pacification of Ireland met with but scant sympathy from Lord Salisbury. The situation between the Castle and Downing street had been aggravated by the reactionary policy of the Ministry until at last in despair Lord Carnarvon resigned, and when on his way to London received the news of the fall of the Ministry. Mr. Gladstone came in. Without the Home Rulers he had no majority in the House of Commons. He, however, declared himself in favor of Home Rule, hoping to make up on the Irish vote the defections which he knew he would have to expect on the part of the Whigs and Radical Unionists. The Irish, although delighted at the demonstration which this afforded of the power of their Parliamentary vote, were sullen and suspicious. They had had but too recent an experience of what they called the Grand Old Coercionist for them to trust Mr. Gladstone further than they could see him. Most of the leaders of the men upon whose shoulders he was now returning to power had been imprisoned by him during the administration of Mr. Foster or Lord Spencer. Men who have just come out of jail are inclined to apply the maxim about doubting the gift-bearing Greeks to their former jailer. Mr. Morley's appointment as Chief Secretary, so far as it went, was accepted as a pledge of sincerity, but the Irish knew little of Lord Aberdeen and they knew a great deal about the Castle of which he was the latest occupant. There was, therefore, no popular demonstration when Lord and Lady Aberdeen began their viceroyal duties. The popular party in Ireland stood askance, boycotting the castle as they had boycotted it for years past; and as the Loyalists, so-called, regarded the new administration as a band of traitors and renegades, the lot of the new Viceroy was anything but a happy one.

From this position of isolation they were rescued by a happy experience which turned the tide, and was the first conspicuous act that notified to the Irish people the change which had come over the spirit of their British rulers. There was in that year a great distress in the west of Ireland, and the Castle had, of course, official intimation of the sufferings of the poorer cottagers on the Atlantic coast. The ordinary method by which relief is obtained is by a meeting in the Mansion House, called and presided over by the Lord Mayor. It has been the curse of the system in Ireland that the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Viceroy of the Queen at the Castle have held aloof from each other. The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans, neither have the patriots of the Mansion House anything to do with the courtiers at the Castle. On this occasion, however, a private communication was sent from the Castle to the Lord Mayor, Mr. T. D. Sullivan, the poet, patriot and genial chief magistrate, to suggest the calling of a meeting in order to devise means for relieving the distress, and he received a further intimation from the Castle to the effect that although his Excellency could not attend as Lord Lieutenant he would be very glad to be present in his capacity as a citizen resident in Dublin. Mr. Sullivan, one of the best hearted men in the world, who was acquainted with the high character and sterling sincerity of the Viceroy, was very glad indeed to receive the intimation, but just a trifle anxious to know how the bhoys would take it. As there is no omelet without breaking of eggs, their Excellencies carried it through. Every individual whom they consulted, including all the authorities, opposed their action. They were warned that they would be hissed, that they would begin their viceroyalty with a slap in the face which they would never get over, and that the one thing which they should avoid above everything was the running of any risks. To all of which advice, although couched in the most diplomatic way and pressed upon them with the greatest authority, they turned a deaf ear. It was an inspiration, and they did well to act upon it.

The news had got abroad that the Castle was going to visit the Mansion House, and an immense crowd was gathered in the neighborhood to see the vice-regal carriages. In Dublin the representative of Her Majesty keeps up the tradition of royal state much more than in the more democratic colonies. On this occasion the Viceroy drove through the streets of Dublin to the chief magistrate of the city with the usual carriage and four, with postilions and outriders. It was a critical moment when the carriage drove up in front of the door of the Lord Mayor's official residence, and the Viceroy and his wife, in their capacity of citizens, descended to attend a meeting summoned to consider the distress in the west of Ireland. It seemed to those who were present as if the crowd quivered and hesitated, not knowing whether to hiss or to cheer, when suddenly one of the bhoys gave rein to the exuberance of his enthusiasm and broke out into a hearty cheer. Another second and all suspense was at an end. Amid a roar of cheers, the like of which had never been heard behind a Viceroy in recent years, Lord Aberdeen made his way into the meeting hall. The climax of the proceedings was reached when Lord Aberdeen requested to be introduced to Michael Davitt. When the one-armed ex-Fenian convict grasped the hand of Lord Aberdeen there was a public pledge given and recognized of all men of the alliance of the Irish democracy and all that was best in the popular party in Britain.

The Unionists, of course, were scandalized that a representative of the Queen should shake hands with a man who had done his term of penal servitude in Portland prison, but all men, irrespective of party, who knew the high character and stainless life of Michael Davitt rejoiced that such typical representa-

tives of the two races should have publicly exchanged the right hand of fellowship before the eyes of the two nations. From that moment everything went well with them in Dublin. A strange and what appeared to most Irishmen an incredible thing took place. Dublin Castle, so long the symbol of an alien dominion, became the headquarters of the Nationalist movement. Lady Aberdeen, remembering her Irish descent from the O'Neills, threw herself heart and soul into developing the industries of Ireland. As a rule, the Scotch get on better with the Irish than the English do. This is curious, as the Scotch are far more reserved than their Southern neighbors, but as a matter of fact even the dourest Presbyterian Scot manages to get along better with his Irish Catholic neighbor than an Englishman in the same circumstances. Everything that Lord and Lady Carnarvon had tried to do the Aberdeens took up and did with the greater force and vigor that comes of conscious reliance upon popular enthusiasm. The six months which they passed in Ireland were among the best in Irish history, a kind of glorious summer day out of due season, but heralding the sunshine to come. Over at Westminster the Home Rule bill, framed upon the fatally false foundation of excluding the Irish from the Imperial Parliament, staggered heavily downward. Even at the eleventh hour the bill might have been saved if the exclusion of the Irish members had been frankly abandoned, but Mr. Morley willed it otherwise, and the Government marched to its doom. After the fatal decision was taken there was a dissolution which resulted in the return of a large Unionist majority. Then the hour came when Dublin Castle had to give up its pleasant occupants and the brief break in the long tradition of repression and distrust came to an end. It was not until that day of leave taking that the Aberdeens themselves or the public had any adequate conception of the degree of passionate personal enthusiasm and devoted loyalty which they had succeeded in six short months in creating in the capital of Ireland. The whole of Dublin city turned out to give the Viceroy and his wife a national Irish farewell. As they drove from the Castle down to the station, through streets filled with cheering and weeping crowds, it was evident even to the most cynical observer that the popular heart had been touched to its depths. Everywhere in the streets, banners were waving and flags flying, and strangest of all, for the first time in recent years, the Irish National Band played "God Save the Queen." It was a great moment, and one which made the heart swell high with pride and gratitude that such an outburst of popular sympathy had been brought about by the simple talisman of helpful sympathy and profound respect. For the Aberdeens had learned to love the Irish people with a whole-hearted devotion which touched that emotional and appreciative people to the quick. They saw in Lady Aberdeen especially one who was more Irish than the Irish themselves, and the enthusiasm and loyalty which her presence elicited did more to reveal possibilities for the pacification of Ireland than all the administrations of all the politicians. When the cheering crowds had shouted their last farewell and the viceregal party were steaming towards Holyhead they had the consolation of feeling that even if the ship had gone to the bottom they had not spent their lives in vain. But the ship did not go to the bottom, and the viceroyalty of Ireland may be said to have been the entrance leading up to their future history. They had arrived, and henceforth their position among the first half dozen families in the Empire was clear.

IV. THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

In the foregoing pages repeated reference has been made to Lady Aberdeen. I must now deal for a brief space with one who might well afford a subject for a separate sketch. Lady Aberdeen is the daughter of Sir Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks, since created Lord Tweedmouth, of a staunch old Whig Border family, and who himself represented the "good town of Berwick-on-Tweed" for thirty years as a Liberal. The family seat is in Berwickshire, but

HADDO HOUSE, SCOTLAND, THE HOME OF THE ABERDEENS.

little Ishbel's home was in Guisachan in Invernesshire. It was a wild and romantic spot. The country seat nestled at the head of a lovely mountain strath twenty-three miles from the nearest railroad station or telegraph office. In this mountain solitude the young girl grew up a strong and sturdy Scotch lassie, passionately fond of reading and of the vigorous outdoor life of the mountain child.

Her father, the son of the well-known Mr. Edward Marjoribanks (who up to the age of ninety-four transacted all the heavy duties falling to the lot of the senior partner of such a bank as Coutts'), combined with his hereditary business instincts strong literary and artistic tastes and a passion for everything that pertained to sport and natural history. It was this which led him in early manhood to settle himself in the wilds of Invernesshire, and there to create a very paradise, in the midst of which he lives the life of an ancient patriarch amongst his retainers and his ghillies, to the great benefit of all the glen.

Lady Tweedmouth, a woman of great beauty and talent, was the daughter of Sir James Hogg, one of the mainstays of the old East India Council, and many members of her family can boast in recent years of having maintained in the service of their country in India the high traditions of their combined Scottish and Irish ancestry.

LADY ISHBEL.

With such a host and hostess and in such surroundings "Guisachan" became renowned in all the North of Scotland for its wide hospitality, and every autumn found gathered beneath its roof prominent politicians of both parties, artists, literary men, sportsmen. Thus it naturally came about that between the annual six months' Parliamentary season in London and the circle of friends visiting her Highland home the little Ishbel was brought into contact with most of the leading men of the day, riding and walking in their company, listening to their stories and mutual reminiscences, and imbibing all unconsciously a strong Liberal bias, which presently blossomed into full force under the friendly influences of Mr. Gladstone.

Another result of her youthful surroundings was to accustom her to free intercourse with persons of very various religious creeds. In her native glen the great majority of the people were Celtic, Roman Catholics, whilst the minority consisted of strong Free Church folk, with a sprinkling of adherents of the Auld Kirk, amongst which were her own family. She and her white pony were at home amongst them all, and many were the stories she heard and the sympathies that were evoked as she learned to spin or bake "cakes" by the side of the old Highland "wifies," or to watch for the deer and the grouse with her father's gamekeepers. It is curious to note how these early experiences trained the young girl for her future connection with the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian populations of Ireland, and it is a strange coincidence that circumstances should have accustomed both Lord and Lady Aberdeen from childhood to follow the example of the Queen in being mem-

bers of both Presbyterian and Episcopalian churches, according as they resided in Scotland or in England.

God fanned her with His ripening looks,
And heaven's rich instincts in her grew
As effortless as woodland nooks
Send violets up and paint them blue.

GUISACHAN HOUSE, LADY ABERDEEN'S ANCESTRAL HOME.

This Scottish girl, with her Gaelic name, nursed on tradition, on romance, and surrounded from infancy with the sound of the stirring melodies of her native hills, was only eleven when she first saw her present husband. It chanced upon a day that a young man of twenty-one who had been riding across the country, lost his way and came over the hills with a footsore pony to the entrance bridge of Guisachan. He was little more than a boy. Slight of frame although of ordinary stature, with a frank, fearless look in his eye, as he, after many apologies for trespassing, craved permission to put his pony up for the night at the

ISHBEL MARJORIBANKS.

lodge so that he might the next day continue his journey. Sir Dudley Marjoribanks, on inquiring for the identity of the strange wayfarer, found that he was named John Campbell Gordon, the son of an old Parliamentary friend, the Earl of Aberdeen. He at once gave a highland welcome to the belated traveler. Ishbel, then a girl of eleven, saw the visitor and soon after she fell in love with him, nor has she from that day to this ever wavered in the whole-hearted devotion which exists between her and the man who afterwards became her husband. The portrait, reproduced by permission, of Ishbel Marjoribanks at the age when she first met Lord Aberdeen is copied from a beautiful colored miniature painting which is among the treasures of the family. The acquaintance thus auspiciously begun was continued in a friendship which was consummated and placed upon a more permanent foundation when in the year 1877 Ishbel Marjoribanks became Ishbel Aberdeen.

They passed their honeymoon in Egypt, where his father, Lord Haddo, had spent many happy months in the vain pursuit of health. It was while they were going up the Nile in their dahabeah that they had the good fortune to meet Gen. Gordon, then Governor-General of the Soudan. He was scouring up the river in his steamer, while they were slowly toiling up propelled by the sluggish stream. Not knowing how to attract the attention of the Governor-General, Lord Aberdeen hit upon the idea of firing signals of distress. This at once brought Gen. Gordon to their boat, and recognizing in his visitor the head of his clan, he extended him a hearty welcome and rendered him the fealty which is due from every Gordon to the head of his house. Gen. Gordon took to Lord Aberdeen as if he had been his own brother, and before parting for the night he presented Lady Aberdeen with a beautiful set of little silver coffee cups as a token of their friendship. The dahabeah and the steamer parted in the night and in the morning they were out of sight. They met Gen. Gordon again at Cairo and dined with him in the spacious palace which was placed at the disposal of the simple soldier by the Khedive. They had a long discussion with him as to the possibility of repressing the slave

trade. That it existed in Egypt they had the best opportunity of knowing, for hearing that boys were bought and sold as merchandise, they sent their man ashore at one of the villages stating that if they had any boys for sale they would be glad to see them. Without any delay a slave merchant brought four boys on board the ship and set forth with much detail their various advantages, and discoursed upon the benefits which would accrue to the purchaser who obtained such a desirable human article. The merchant then stated the price at which he was willing to part with them. Lord Aberdeen pointed to the British flag which was flying at the masthead and told the slave dealer that the four boys were slaves no longer, as wherever the British flag flew slavery ceased to exist. But in order not to create a hubbub he stated that he was willing to take charge of the boys and give the slave dealer a present almost equivalent to the price which he had asked. They took the children up to Assiout and handed them over to a mission to be baptized and brought up. Then a difficulty arose. The missionaries refused to baptize them

LADY ABERDEEN AND CHILD.

A FAMILY GROUP.

unless their parents or adopted parents would take the responsibility of presenting them for baptism. Lord and Lady Aberdeen, having put their hands to the plough, did not turn back, but at once adopted the four boys as their own children and they were all baptized and placed in good keeping. Three of them afterwards died of consumption. The remaining one grew up and became an earnest Christian and is at the present moment a missionary in the Soudan. These were not the only adopted children the young couple possessed when they came back to England from their honeymoon. They had no fewer than five adopted children. Four of them were left at Assiout, but one was brought with them to England. This was an Egyptian lad who had become a Christian, but who had been tortured into recanting. He had run away from his tormentors and was more or less at a loss, and did not know what to do. Lord and Lady Aberdeen therefore enabled him to leave the country undetected in the character of one of their servants. On arriving home they put him to college at Edinburgh, and he is now a missionary in China.

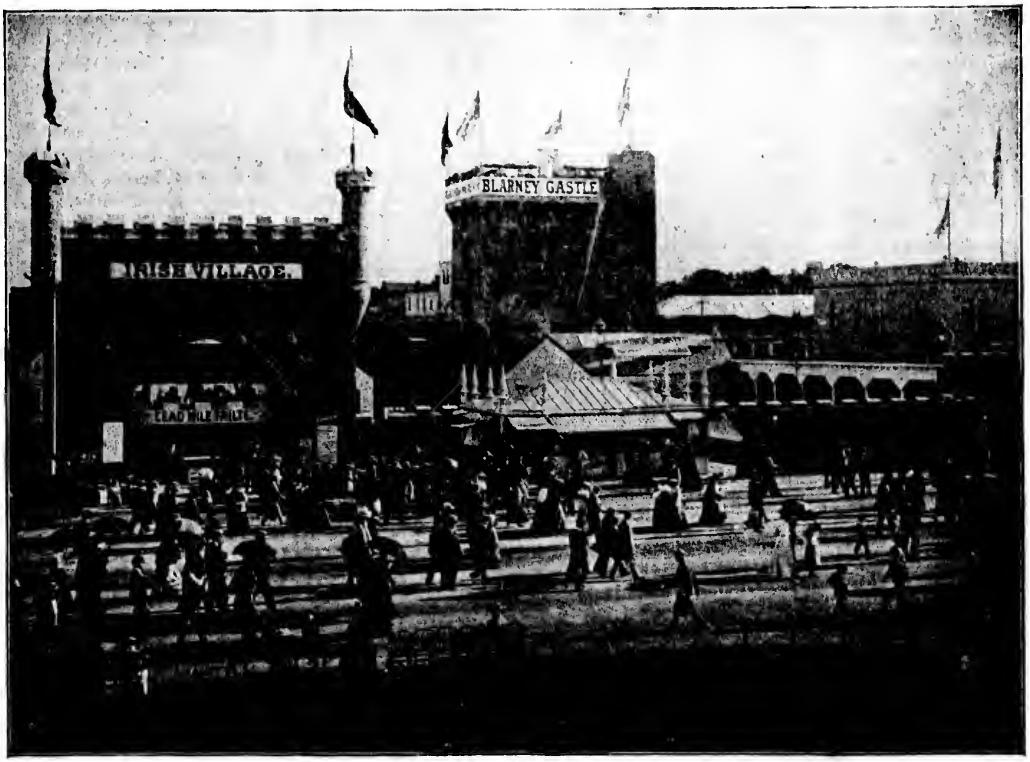
In addition to their adopted children they have had five children, four of whom are living. The second daughter died in infancy. Lord Haddo, the Hon. Dudley and Hon. Archie are the boys, while Lady Marjorie, who is only thirteen years old, is the only surviving daughter. Lady Marjorie has the distinction of being the youngest editor in the world, and her little monthly, *Wee Willie Winkie*, is an almost ideal specimen of what a child's paper should be. It is simple, natural, interesting, and I am glad to hear that it is likely to have an extended range of usefulness on the American continent. Lady Marjorie is an interesting child, somewhat tall for her age, but still a child at

her lessons. She does her editing in the intervals of play time. Like all the rest of the family she is devoted to her mother, who is naturally very anxious that such a child should not be unduly forced into prominent activity. Lady Aberdeen possesses immense activity and energy, together with a capacity to do things and get them done. Her first training in the way of organization was the establishment of the Onward and Upward Society, an association which began on a small scale among the domestics and poor people on their estate in Aberdeenshire, and which has spread until they have about 9,000 members throughout the world. In connection with this and in calling attention to and advertising the existence of Irish manufactures, which are quite worthy to take equal rank with any other nation in the world. Much of the Irish lace and other displays took a high place among the exhibits at the World's Fair, winning forty-seven medals. Thanks largely to the business capacity, untiring industry and constant vigilance of Mrs. White, the Irish Village at Chicago, with over one hundred Irish inmates, was a great success from every point of view, as an object lesson of what the Irish could do. It was a realistic reproduction of the actual conditions of life in the old country, which made a very handsome profit for the extension of the work

LADY MARJORIE AND LORD HADDO GORDON.

HON. ARCHIE AND HON. DUDLEY GLADSTONE GORDON.

Lady Aberdeen edits a monthly review under the title of *Onward and Upward*. Dr. Lyman Abbott, writing upon this association in the *Outlook*, says that it is a combination of the Y. W. C. A., Working Girls' Club and the Chatauqua Literary and Scientific Association. Another work with which her name is even more prominently associated is the Irish Industries Association, which was brought more conspicuously before the American public by Lady Aberdeen's Irish Village, with its reproduction of Blarney Castle, which stood at the entrance of the Midway Plaisance in Jackson Park. It is difficult to estimate the stimulating influence of this association in promoting the development of the domestic industries of Ireland of the association. They have now taken a place in Wabash avenue, Chicago, where the products of Irish industry are on sale. Similar depots will probably be established throughout the whole world in time. A large measure of the expense for maintaining the machinery necessary to develop these industries into self-supporting concerns has been supplied by Lord Aberdeen, while the amount of labor which has been devoted to the task by the Countess is almost inconceivable. She has her reward, however, in what promises to be a very thriving industry, or rather series of industries, which have begun already to contribute not a little to the amelioration of the condition of life in old Ireland.



THE IRISH VILLAGE AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Perhaps the most important work on a wide scale with which Lady Aberdeen has been connected was that which she undertook in the Woman's Liberal Federation, a body of 80,000 women of which she is at this moment President, although she will retire at the next general meeting. She was elected to this post in succession to Mrs. Gladstone, and the very strongest possible pressure has been brought to bear upon her to induce her to reconsider her determination to resign an office the duties of which she cannot discharge from Ottawa. The Woman's Liberal Federation, it is well to remark, is no mere party caucus. There is no doubt that it was originally started by some wire-pullers of the Liberal Party, who imagined that it might be of good service to bring into existence a Liberal counterpart to the Primrose League. The Woman's Liberal Federation, however, no sooner came into being than it developed an independent activity of its own which led it to be regarded with the liveliest feelings of resentment by the caucus managers and wirepullers who had assisted in bringing it into being. The association has had a great and beneficial effect in stimulating women to take an intelligent interest in politics and to make their influence felt in all that relates to the moral and social improvement of society. Time and again they have rendered invaluable service to the cause of moral and social reform, and nothing can be further from the mark than to confound such an association of energetic public-spirited women with a mere creature of the party whip. There are women in England who imagine that their only duty in politics is to canvass for a candidate of their party, whoever he may be, and they have formed a small caucus of their own, which is without numbers, without influence and without standing in the country. The Woman's Liberal Federation is a national organization which is growing in strength every year, and which insists on having a voice in the settlement of all national questions. As a means of education as well as an instrument of political influence it fills a very useful part in our political economy. Lady Aberdeen has not been long in the Dominion of Canada, but she has already helped to organize a National Council of Women, the object being to form a body of women representing all phases of women's work in every center of population in the whole Dominion. It is hoped that such a body will promote unity and charity, both amongst religious, philanthropic and secular associations, giving all a chance of knowing of

what is being done for the good of the world outside their own immediate sphere. It will also secure their joint consideration of public questions and their joint action when circumstances arise which will necessitate their practical intervention. Of course, like others who have taken any interest in the amelioration of the condition of life, Lady Aberdeen believes firmly in woman's suffrage. In her present position as wife of the Governor-General she is necessarily precluded from taking any part in questions that can by any pretense be alleged to belong to the domain of party politics. It ought not to be a question of party politics to affirm that a woman is a human being, nor should a Governor-General's wife be debarred from insisting upon the natural corollary of that fundamental truism. There is no doubt, however, that the National Council will tend to lead women more and more to take counsel together and see whether it is not possible for them to bring such influence to bear as to render it possible for the best men, truly the best men, to be returned to the Houses of Parliament.

LADY MARJORIE GORDON,

The thirteen-year-old editor of "Wee Willie Winkie."

HON. ARCHIE GORDON

(As one of the "Children's Guard of Honor" in attendance upon the Queen on the occasion of the unveiling of Princess Louise's statue of Her Majesty in Kensington Gardens, June, 1893.)

V. GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

During the whole of the Salisbury administration it was regarded as a matter of course that with the advent of a Home Rule administration Lord Aberdeen would go back to Dublin as Viceroy. The immense success which had attended his previous viceroyalty and the continued and continuously increasing interest which Lady Aberdeen took in all that concerned the material interests of the distressful country caused the ordinary man to take it as a matter of course that whatever appointments were in doubt, there could be no more question as to who would be the Irish Viceroy than there was as to who would be the Prime Minister. Mr. Gladstone himself was believed to share this view, and great indeed was the astonishment of the country when on the gazetting of the appointments Lord Aberdeen's name did not appear on the list.

It is an open secret that the appointment of Lord Houghton to be Viceroy was due entirely to the initiative of Mr. Morley. Mr. Morley was and is a close friend of the Aberdeens, but he deemed it desirable in the interests of the new administration that England should have not two representatives in Ireland, but

one, and that one should be himself. No doubt from his own standpoint, however, he was abundantly justified; and for the general interests of the Empire we cannot but rejoice that Lord Aberdeen should have been provided with a sphere of influence immeasurably more important than that which he would have had as a Viceroy at Dublin.

At first there seemed some doubt as to whether they would have gone to India or would accept the Governor-Generalship of Canada. During the Conservative administration he had traveled together with Lady Aberdeen over the whole of the British Empire, including India. There is scarcely a colony or dependency which they did not visit. But apart from Ireland there was no post in the Empire more congenial to Lord and Lady Aberdeen than the Governor-Generalship of the Dominion of Canada. Canada reminded them in many points of their own native land, and they had been very much impressed with the future of the country. A few years ago they had established a kind of country seat for themselves in the ranching lands of British Columbia. There they retired from time to time away from the incessant round of duties which occupied them at Dollis Hill and at Haddo House. They had repeatedly visited the country, and, as an eminent official said to me, they brought to the Governor-Generalship more personal knowledge of Canada than most Governor-Generals are able to acquire in the course of their office.

The term of office of Lord Stanley, the present Earl of Derby, did not expire till last midsummer. As soon as he retired Lord Aberdeen was appointed. Lord Stanley as Governor-General was somewhat colorless. Lord Stanley, although respectable and honest, has left no definite impress upon his contemporaries either in London or in Canada. But to Lord Stanley has succeeded a Governor-General of a very different stamp, and nothing could have been more auspicious than the welcome with which he has been received in the Dominion. The post is one of considerable difficulty in difficult times But when everything goes smoothly the only difficulty is to reconcile the existence of an establishment so regal in a democracy so simple as that of the Canadas. Lord Aberdeen, however, had hardly landed upon Canadian shores before it became evident that he was much more than a mere Governor-General. He was a living man with wide and catholic sympathies, who recognized that while it was necessary to abide strictly within the constitutional limits in all political questions, in non-political questions, which after all occupy three-fourths of human interest, he was in a position which placed upon him and his family the obligation of exercising all the influence which any highly placed and cultured citizen is bound to exercise. On his landing, in reply to an address of welcome, he sounded the keynote:

"It is indeed an office of high honors, as well as of grave and serious responsibility. But, gentlemen, does the honor and dignity of it exclude the holder from the common lot, the common heritage of service? Nay, it implies, it includes, it conveys this privilege, this grand principle and purpose of life. If and because your Governor-General is in the service of the Crown, he is, therefore, in a literal and absolute sense, in the service of Canada. In other words, aloof though he be from actual executive responsibility, his attitude must be that of ceaseless and watchful readiness to take part, by whatever opportunity may be afforded to him, in the fostering of every influence that will sweeten and elevate public life; to observe, study and join in making known the resources and development of the country; to vindicate, if required, the rights of the people and the ordinances of the constitution, and, lastly, to promote by all means in his power, without reference to class or creed, every movement and every institution calculated to forward the social, moral and religious welfare of all the inhabitants of the Dominion. Such, gentlemen, I venture to assure you is the aim and purpose which, in dependence on the one ever effectual source of help and strength, we desire to pursue."

There is in this brief speech the keynote of the whole of Lord Aberdeen's life. He has succeeded, it is true, to a peerage and office of great usefulness and of high position, but he has also succeeded to what he finely calls "the heritage of service." As the servant of the Crown he is also the servant of Canada. It is the old principle which led the Pope, the most highly placed of all mortals, to describe himself as *servus servorum*. There is no doubt but that Lord Aberdeen will find ample opportunity of proving himself a servant in deed as well as in name. There is plenty to be done in Canada, and few men are so capable of doing it as is Lord Aberdeen. Traditionally and personally a Protestant, he has always cultivated the most friendly terms with Catholics, and one of the first and most significant of his actions in the Dominion of Canada was to overcome by a little kindly diplomacy the obstacles which have hitherto prevented the friendly meeting of the Governor-General and the Cardinal of Quebec. It may pass the wit of man to invent any way by which the French Canadian and the Orange Protestant can be prevailed upon to recognize that each are brothers in Christ as well as subjects of the Queen. If it could be done the Aberdeens are the people to do it. Lady Aberdeen, as I happen to know of old time, was regarded with affection and esteem by the late Cardinal Manning. "She is a good woman," I remember he said to me, with great emphasis, on one memorable occasion when her kindly woman's heart was the means of getting him to stretch out a helping hand to save a poor soul that was tottering blindly on the verge of the abyss.

Nor is it only in tending to assuage the rancor of contending creeds that the Aberdeens have plenty of work before them. As intimate friends with Professor Drummond, they are thoroughly in sympathy with the more liberal spirit which finds expression in the higher and more Christian thought of the closing century. In that direction their influence can hardly tend but to sweeten the theological atmosphere and to bring to those who are bowed down beneath the shadow of an austere and repellant faith

MR. AND MRS. GLADSTONE BIDDING FAREWELL TO LORD AND LADY ABERDEEN ON THE DAY OF THEIR DEPARTURE FOR CANADA.
(From a Kodak taken by Lady Aberdeen.)

somewhat of the more genial and brighter joy of the larger hope.

In all questions connected with education and of the multiplication of opportunities of social enjoyment and of humanized intercourse they have, in England, been in the forefront, and their transfer to the New World will open up new fields to their untiring activity. Lord Aberdeen is president of the Boys' Brigade, an admirable institution by which it has been found that the interest of youths in the most critical period can be excited by the substitution of a little discipline and drill for the usual methods of the Sunday school. Both Lord Aberdeen and his wife have taken a great part in the formation and maintenance of the Parents' Educational Union. With them, as with all those who really think, the family is the real unit with which all amelioration must begin, and in emphasizing the responsibilities of parentage and in carrying on the propaganda in favor of more home training they have done and will do a great deal of good.

To the directly political action which a Governor-General can take it is not necessary to refer here. As Lord Dufferin remarked, when times are smooth and things go well there is little for a Governor-General to develop the higher qualities of statesmanship. In Canada there is a widespread conviction, confined by no means to the Opposition, that we are on the verge of a transformation of power from the Conservatives who have succeeded to the heritage of Sir John Macdonald's prestige to the Grits or Liberals, who are confidently looking forward to gaining a majority at the coming general election. It is not likely that the majority which will change the reins of power from Sir John Thompson to those of Mr. Laurier will be large, unless, of course, the tariff proposals of Mr. Wilson should lead to a great accession of strength to the advocates of a reformed tariff in the Dominion. It is by no means impossible that if the tariff bill is carried the advocates of reciprocity between Canada and the United States may be able to establish themselves in power at Ottawa, with instructions from the electors to minimize the curse of a custom house which impedes the free interchange of commodities between the United States and Canada. If such a contingency should arrive it is obvious that there would be plenty of work for the Governor-General to do, and it is satisfactory to know that Lord Aberdeen is certain to use all his influence in the direction of maintaining good relations between the Empire and the Republic.

There is another thing which it is impossible to pass over entirely unnoticed, although it is unnecessary to say more than a word about it. When I was going through Ottawa Jail Mr. McGreevy, a well known director and Member of Parliament, who had for years past been the friend and ally of the leading ministers of the Dominion, was sent to jail for a year on the charge of corruption in the matter of contracts which had got mixed up with election funds. The gangrene of corruption, which undoubtedly prevails to some extent among politicians in Canada, is one of those frauds against the commonwealth which call for the unceasing vigilance of the Governor-General. In what way it may be possible for Lord Aberdeen to take action in the matter it is impossible to say. Two things, however, are certain: first, that he will loyally abide within the limits of the constitution, but not less certainly, if an opportunity arises by which he can within these limits strike a blow at the malady which afflicts the commonweal, no personal considerations will for a moment stand in the way of any action, which will be all the more resolute because it will be heralded by no flourish of trumpets or preliminary parade.

I have left myself but scant space in which to speak of the Aberdeens at home. It is a wide subject; for not only have they many homes, but they are at home everywhere, and they have the faculty of making everybody feel at home where they are. Whether it is a ranch in British Columbia, at the family seat in Aberdeenshire, in Lord Shaftesbury's house in Grosvenor Square, which they rebuilt for their own use, or at Dollis Hill, the suburban retreat which has so often afforded Mr. Gladstone a welcome oasis of leis-

ure and domesticity in the midst of political strife, they are always the same—simple, unassuming, kind and hospitable. They are always endeavoring to enable their guest to appear at his best, and with generous self-effacement seeking only to minister to his welfare. Their hospitality is not confined to any

COLDSTREAM, LORD ABERDEEN'S RANCH NEAR VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

sect, party, class or condition. The visitors' book at Haddo bears many names, from that of Her Majesty the Queen down to some of the poorest of her subjects. Nor have any rested within its walls without experiencing the charm which comes [redacted] perfect culture combined with high religious p[redacted]e, which is felt all the more because it is never aggressively asserted. Among the later guests who assembled at Haddo House immediately before the departure of the Aberdeens for Canada was Col. John Hay, who left as his autograph in the visitors' book a couple of verses which may be appropriately quoted here:

"Ask me not here amid these storied halls,
Vowed to traditions of high strenuous duty,
Where faces of dead statesmen deck the walls
With righteous glory's ever living beauty—

Ask me not here to turn a careless rhyme,
It ill would suit the solemn place and hour
When Haddo's Lord bears to a distant clime
The Gordon conscience backed by Britain's power."

Dollis Hill, near London, is the great gathering ground for religious and philanthropic movements. The first time I visited it was to listen to Mr. Gladstone address an out-of-door assemblage in protest against the coercion of Ireland, but religious denominations and various charitable associations find there their natural rallying ground. In their absence from England it is difficult to see who will fill their place. Lady Aberdeen is an enthusiastic photographer, and her book, "Through Canada with a Kodak," bears abundant testimony to the fact that she has the eye of an artist as well as the pen of a quick and observant writer. As a speaker she is very effective, her voice is full of music and singularly free from the shrillness which sometimes mars the oratory of women. Every morning at Rideau Hall the household assembles for morning prayers, which are conducted by Lord Aberdeen, or in his absence by his wife. They are very simple. A hymn is sung, a chapter in the Bible is read and then Lord Aberdeen reads prayers, and the household then join in the Lord's prayer. This, however, is by no means the only occasion on which the heads of the house and the domestics meet on a footing of equality. Every week they have a meeting of their household club, which is social and educational. Members of the household and visitors take part in a medley of music, speechmaking and discussion. There are besides classes held in connection with the club and lantern lectures given. On the whole, the experiment is one full of hope and promise and worthy of imitation.

There is a fine spirit of brotherliness running through the whole establishment at Rideau Hall and the genial glow of that household life will be felt far and wide in the New World. What the future may hold it is impossible to say, but it is not a very hazardous prediction to say that at the end of five years even those who most grieved that Lord and Lady Aberdeen did not return in 1892 to the Green Isle they love so much, and which so heartily returns that love, will rejoice that this did not come to pass at that time. It is impossible for me to express more strongly my conviction as to the good results which are likely to follow from this Governor-Generalship.

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